

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6658

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 3775

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC JULY 5 DISCUSSION OF DATA AND GROUND FORCE
DEFINITION ISSUE

REF: VIENNA 133

SUMMARY: AT CHAIRMANS INITIATIVE, AGENDA ITEM ON DATA DURING
SPC'S JULY 5 MEETING WAS EXPANDED TO CONSIDER HOW ALLIES SHOULD
REACT TO LATEST AHG MEESAGE ON DEFINITION OF GROUND
FORCES (TEXT REF A). WHILE SEVERAL ALLIES HAD NOT RECEIVED
COPIES FROM NATO COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, OTHERS WERE UNCERTAIN
WHETHER NAC NEEDED TO RESPOND TO AHG'S INTENTION TO PROVIDE A
SIGNAL PRIOR TO CONCLUSION OF CURRENT NEGOTIATION SESSION.
AGREEMENT FINALLY REACHED THAT SPC WOULD COME BACK TO AHG PAPER
ON MONDAY, JULY 8 WHEN ALLIES WOULD DETERMINE, BASED
ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION
TO AHG ACTING ON ITS INTENDED COURSE. ON NEW MBFR WG DATA REPORT,
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CIRCULATED EARLIER IN DAY AND REFLECTING NEW FIGURES ACCEPTED IN
WG ON JULY 2, SEVERAL ALLIES INSISTED THAT POLITICAL AND MILITARY
IMPLICATIONS OF NEW FIGURES BE EXAMINED BEFORE THEY COULD BE USED
BY AHG WITH THE OTHER SIDE. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN (KASTL) OPENED DISCUSSION ON DATA BY OBSERVING THAT AHG HAD NOW TRANSMITTED TO BRUSSELS A REPORT ON ALTERNATIVE WAYS THE CURRENT ALLIED DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES COULD BE ADJUSTED. HE POINTED IN PARTICULAR TO PARA 4 OF THE COVER NOTE WHICH INDICATED THAT THE AHG INTENDED TO MAKE A SIGNAL TO THE EAST DURING THE PRESENT SESSION WHICH WOULD INDICATE ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ADJUSTING ITS EARLIER DEFINITION. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT ALLIES SHOULD TAKE A CAREFUL LOOK AT THIS PARAGRAPH AND ONLY THEN CONSIDER THE FURTHER AHG REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF A REDEFINITION PROPOSAL, WHICH HE NOTED THEY WOULD ONLY NEED AT THE OUTSET OF THE THIRD NEGOTIATING SESSION. ONLY AFTER THIS HAD BEEN DONE, HE FELT SHOULD THE ALLIES TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE USE OF NEW DATA WITH THE EAST. HE THEN ASKED MC REP (SMITH) TO INTRODUCE AND COMMENT ON THE NEW WG REPORT ON DATA.

2. MC REP DREW ON SUBSTANCE OF COVER NOTE, AND NOTED THAT ONLY DIFFERENCE IN NEW NATO FIGURES WAS REDUCTION OF DUTCH SHORT LEAVE PERSONNEL. ON PACT SIDE HE REPORTED THAT WG HAD ACCEPTED NEW FIGURES AS LATEST AND BEST AVAILABLE AGGREGATES, BASED ON EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS AMONG SEVERAL ALLIES TO FILL OUT PREVIOUSLY EXISTING GAPS RELATING TO NSWP SSM AND HELICOPTER PERSONNEL. HE NOTED THAT "GREY AREAS" CONTINUE TO REMAIN UNDER STUDY IN WG, AND THAT FURTHER AMPLIFYING DETAILS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN DUE COURSE. HE NOTED FINALLY THAT SEVERAL WG REPS HAD STRESSED DURING THE JULY 2 WG MEETING THAT POLITICAL AND MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE USE OF DATA SHOULD BE EXAMINED AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY.

3. FRG REP (HOYNCK) SAID HIS DEL HAD NOT RECEIVED AHG REPORT AND THEREFORE BELIEVED GROUND FORCE DEFINITION QUESTION COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED DURING PRESENT SPC MEETING. CHAIRMAN POINTED OUT THAT COUNCIL ACTION WOULD BE NECESSARY IF ALLIES WERE TO COMMENT ON AHG'S INTENTION TO PUT FORWARD A SIGNAL. BELGIAN REP (VAN ROEY) SAID HE ALSO HAD NOT RECEIVED PAPER, AND THEREFORE COULD TAKE NO
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POSITION ON IT AT THIS TIME. UK REP (LOGAN) SAID UK COULD AGREE WITH AHG PROPOSAL TO GIVE A SIGNAL AT THIS TIME, AND POINTED OUT THAT IN SENDING ITS PAPER NOW, AHG OBVIOUSLY HOPED ALLIES COULD DEAL WITH THE SIGNAL QUESTION IMMEDIATELY. HE UNDERSTOOD AHG WANTED TO GIVE THIS SIGNAL ON JULY 16. IN TERMS OF TIMING, THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE SHOULD BE READY FOR APPROVAL BY JULY 10 IF THE AHG WAS TO HOLD TO ITS TIMETABLE.

4. US REP SAID THAT ALTHOUGH AHG PAPER WAS A LONG ONE, THERE APPEARED TO BE ONLY ONE IMMEDIATE ISSUE; THAT WAS WHETHER THERE WAS ANY ALLIED DISAGREEMENT TO THE AHG PROVIDING AN INDICATION THAT ALLIES WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER A REDEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES, AND WHETHER A SIGNAL TO THIS EFFECT SHOULD BE MADE

BEFORE THE END OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING SESSION. IF THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR COUNCIL DISCUSSION. THE AHGS REQUEST TO THE COUNCIL THAT GUIDANCE BE PROVIDED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF A REDEFINITION CONCEPT WAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT QUESTION, WHICH NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE NAC, BUT AS THE AHG REPORT ITSELF INDICATED, THIS DID NOT NEED TO BE ANSWERED UNTIL LATER ON.

5. UK REP SAID HE SUPPORTED THE US APPROACH, AS DID DUTCH REP (SIZOO) WHO ADDED THAT THE AHG WAS NOT ASKING FOR ANY GUIDANCE ON THE SIGNAL. THERE THUS SEEMED TO BE NO BASIS ON WHICH THE NAC COULD RESPOND, SINCE PARA 4 OF THE AHG REPORT CLEARLY INDICATED THAT THE AHG "INTENDED" TO MAKE A SIGNAL. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) NOTED THAT PARA 28 OF THE RPORT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS BEING INCONSISTENT WITH THIS INTENTION, IN THAT IT IMPLIED THAT THE ALLIANCE MUST MAKE AN A PRIORI DECISION ON WHETHER AN ADJUSTMENT IN THE DEFINITION IS TO BE MADE AT ALL.

6. CHAIRMAN SAID IT SEEMED CLEAR THAT ALLIES SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER THE AHG SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT MAKE THEIR INTENDED SIGNAL DURING THE PRESENT NEGOTIATING SESSION. HE ASKED WHETHER THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THIS QUESTION BY MONDAY, JULY 8. UK REP CONCLUDED DISCUSSION WITH REMARK THAT PARA 4 OF AHG REPORT APPEARED TO HIM AS AN INTENDED COURSE OF ACTION FOR ALLIES IN BRUSSELS TO NOTE. IF THE NAC HAD AN OBJECTION TO REGISTER, HE ASSUMED IT WOULD DO SO. IMMEDIATE TASK, THEREFOR, WAS FOR ALLIES TO DETERMINE WHETHER NAC SHOULD OBJECT, PREFERABLY BY WEDNESDAY, JULY 10.

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USNMR SHAPE
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7. DISCUSSION THEN TURNED TO NEW WG DATA REPORT (TEXT SEPTEL).
DANISH REP (VILLADSEN) NOTED THAT WP FIGURES HAD AGAIN
CHANGED. AS A RESULT HE WAS GLAD THAT THE ALLIES HAD
NOT AUTHORIZED AHG TO USE THE EARLIER FIGURES. HE ALSO
SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN'S VIEW THAT SPC LOOK ST THE GROUND FORCE
DEFINITION PROBLEM BEFORE IT IAKES UP USE OF FIGURES AGAIN.
THIS APPROACH WOULD ALSO GIVE ALLIES TIME TO HAVE FIGURES APPROVED
IN DUE COURSE BY FORTHCOMING MC 224 CONFERENCE.

8. CANADIAN REP ASKED CHAIRMAN WHETHER HE INTENDED SPC TO
DISCUSS USE OF NEW FIGURES IN NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME. IF SO,
HE ADDED, CANADA FEELS THE SAME AS DENMARK, IN THAT POLITICAL AND
MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF NEW FIGURES SHOULD BE ASSESSED BEFORE
THE ALLIES AGREE TO THEIR USE IN NEGOTIATIONS.

9. US REP SAID THAT IT WOULD BE MOST UNWISE TO DELAY
RELEASING FIGURES FOR US E IN NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL MC 224
CONFERENCE HAS CONVENED. NEW FIGURES REPRESENT BEST DATA ALLIES
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CURRENTLY HAVE, AND IT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THEY COULD BE
EFFECTIVELY CHALLENGED. FURTHERMORE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO
DISCUSS A REDEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES WITHOUT INVOLVING DATA.
SINCE AHG HAD REQUESTED THE ALLINACE TO EXAMINE A NEW REFORMULATION
OF GROUND FORCES, IT WAS LOGICAL THAT THE LATEST AND BEST
AVAILABLE DATA BE USED TO ANALYZE THIS SUBJECT. AHG SHOULD,
THEREFORE, BE GIVEN THE BEST TOOLS AVAILABLE WHICH IT WOULD USE
ON A STRICTLY RECIPROCAL BASIS, AND WITH THE LARGER OBJECTIVE OF
EXTRACTING DATA FROM THE OTHER SIDE. ONCE ALL ASPECTS OF
THE "GREY AREAS" PROBLEM ARE RESOLVED, NO FURHTER
DIFFICULTIES WERE APPARENT, AND SHOULD THEREFORE BE NO
REASON TO DELAY TRANSMISSION OF DATA TO THE AHG FOR USE WITH THE
EAST. IT WAS DESIRABLE FOR AHG TO HAVE NEW FIGURES IN
GOOD TIME, AND CERTAINLY NO LATER THAN EARLY SEPTEMBER. AS TO
DANISH POINT THAT FUGURES HAVE AGAIN CHANGED, US REP ADDED THAT
FIGURES ARE ALWAYS IN PROCESS OF CHANGE. THIS IS RESULT OF
IMPROVED ANALYTICAL ASSESSMENT AS WELL AS CONTINUING
INTELLIGNECE GATHERING ACTIVITY. THE ALLIES MUST GET USED
TO THE FACT THAT FUGURES WILL CHANGE, WHICH WILL NEITHER
INVALIDATE ANY PARTICULAR SET OF CURRENT DATA, NOR CREATE
DIFICULTIES IN PRESENTING THEM IN NEGOTIATIONS.

10. UK REP SAID HE SAW PROBLEM SLIGHTLY DIFFERENTLY. AS
WG REPORT INDICATES, MANY INFORMATION GAPS HAVE BEEN FILLED AND
DOUBTFUL AREAS CLEARED UP ONLY OUTSTANDING DIFFICULTY WAS
GROUND AND AIR COMPONENTS OF THE WP AIR DEFENSE STRUCTURE. ONCE
THIS RESOLVED, ENTIRE "GREY AREA" PROBLEM WOULD DISAPPEAR, AND

HE HOPED WG WOULD TAKE EARLY ACTION TO ACHIEVE THIS. AS TO WHETHER FIGURES WHOULD BE USED WITH WP, UK REP SAID ALLIES HAD TAKEN NO DICISION AS TO HOW AND WHEN THIS SHOULD BE DONE. SINCE AHG INTENDED MERELY TO PUT FORWARD A SIGNAL ON GROUND FORCE DEFINITION QUESTION , AND SINCE NO DATA WERE INVOLVED IN THE SIGNAL, QUESTION OF WHETHER AHG SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO USE NEW FIGURES IN NEGOTIATIONS WAS PREMATURE, AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED IN TIME FOR NEXT SESSION.

11. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT SPC WOULD HAVE TIME TO COME BACK TO WG'S DATA REPORT, AND SHOULD THEREFORE CONCENTRATE ON WHETHER AHG'S INTENDED SIGNAL WAS ACCEPTABLE. HE PROPOSED THAT ALLIES RETURN TO LATTER SUBJECT ON AN INSTRUCTED BASIS AT JULY 8 SPC MEETING. RUMSFELD

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NOTE BY OC/T: SECTION 1 OF 2, NATO 3775 PROCESSED BEFORE ACDE ACTIVATED.

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